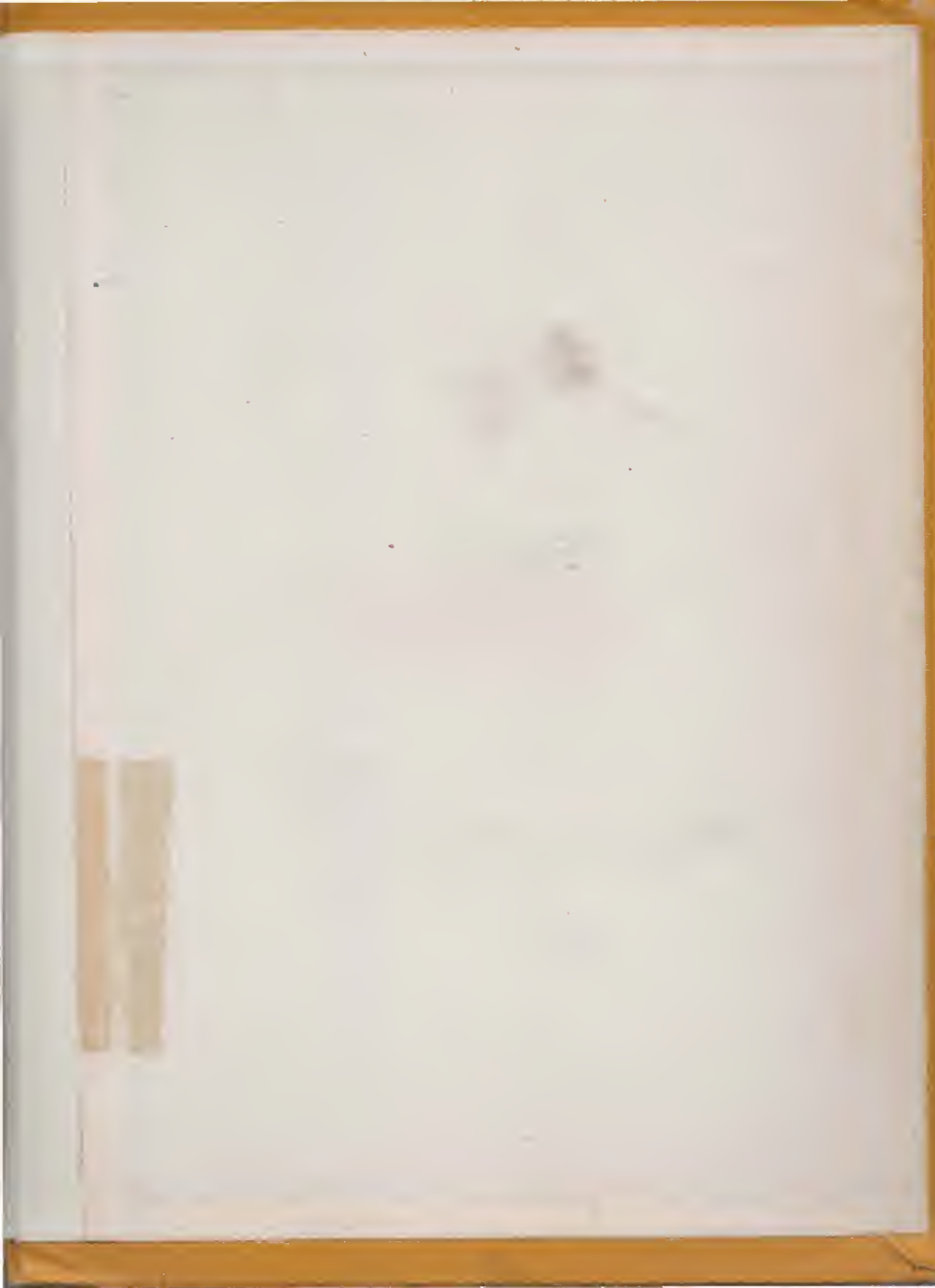


# FUN-TIME PUPPETS

Simple directions for construction and use



By Carrie Rasmussen and Caroline Storck

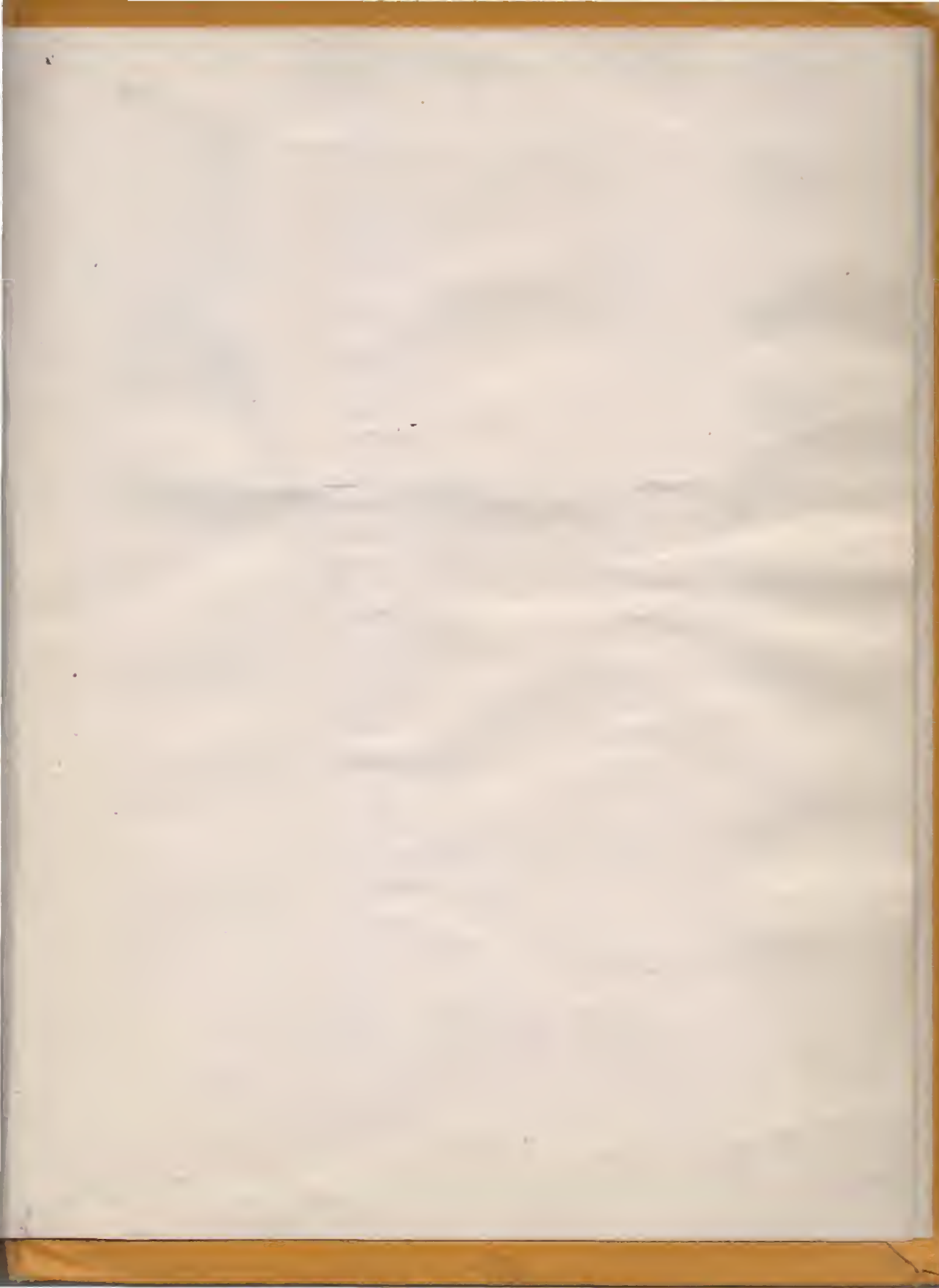


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RASMUSSEN, CARRIE  
FUN-TIME PUPPETS



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# FUN-TIME PUPPETS

By Carrie Rasmussen  
and Caroline Storck

Pictures by  
Caroline Storck

CHILDRENS PRESS, INC.  
Chicago



182767



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# DANCING STICKS

DRAW the Gingerbread Boy, the Three Bears, a giraffe, an elephant, or anything you want.

USE cardboard, wrapping paper, a magazine cover, or several layers of newspaper.

COLOR with paints or crayons.

CUT it out. Tack it, paste it, or tape it to a stick fifteen inches long.

FRIENDS may like to help you. You can play a story with them. You can play a story you know, or you can make up your own story. When you know your story you are ready to make your puppets walk and dance.

EACH CHILD holds one puppet.

EACH CHILD talks for his own puppet.



# FISTS



**A**



**B**

Draw and cut out your puppet from cardboard.

Color it. (A)

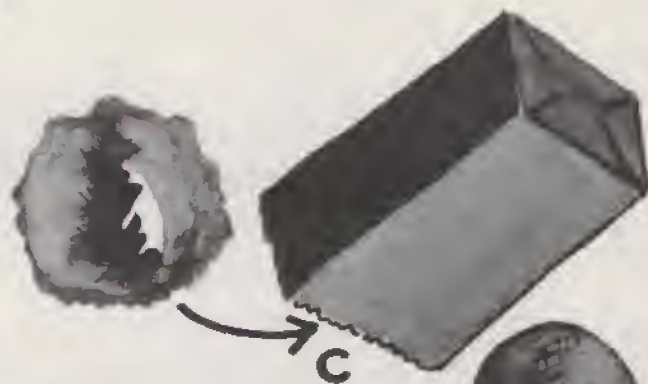
Cut out two strips of cloth.

Sew or staple these on back. (B)

Hold the top strip in your fist and you can make your puppet do what you want it to do.

What kind of a story do you want to play?

Have you thought of having a circus?



**D**

Crumple a piece of newspaper.

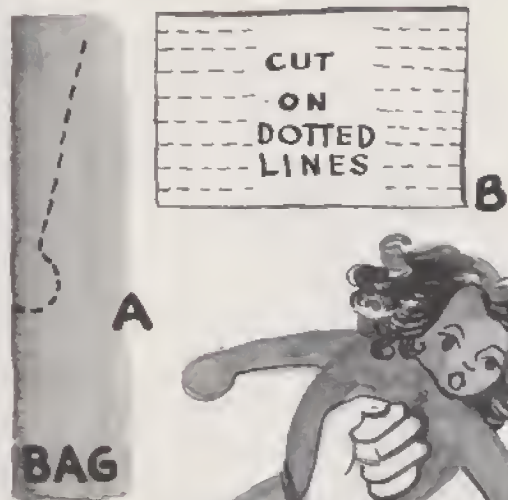
Stuff it into a paper bag. (C)

Crumple the bag around the paper ball, and tie with string.

The open part of the bag is the skirt. (D)



# IN MOTION



CUT out the arms. (A)

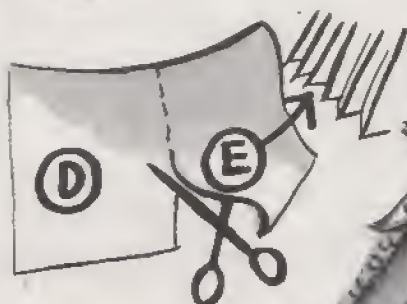
TAKE three or four layers of newspaper and cut to make a good wig. (B) Curl the strips of paper with your scissors.



MAKE a face with your crayons, paint or colored paper.

HOLD the puppet's skirt with your fist inside the bag. (C)

NOW you are ready to play a play.



CRUMPLE one sheet of tissue paper into a ball. Cut another sheet in two. Use one-half (D) to cover the ball for a head. Pleat the other half (E) around the neck to make a dress. Tie with a string. Use a red handkerchief to turn her into Red Riding Hood. Hold as you see in (F).





# SUSIE STOCKING

## YOU NEED

A sock, a wad of cotton,  
an 8-inch stick, 2 small  
weights, string,  
paints  
crayons  
needle  
thread



TIE the wad of cotton to the top of the stick.  
PULL the sock over the ball, so the toe part  
fits over the ball. Tie in place.

CUT off the sock. (A)

PAINT the face so eyes are in the middle of  
the head. The top half you will need  
for forehead and hair.

SEE page 31 for ideas for hair.

USE dress pattern on page 32.

TIE a wad of cotton and a weight in a piece  
of cloth for a hand. Make two. Sew or  
tie these to the arms.

HOLD the stick in your hand, under the  
dress. You can make Susie act as you  
want her to.

THIS same cotton-head puppet can be  
made with a cardboard tube for your  
finger. See page 12.

# AND CAROL CORN

FIND a dry corn cob.

TAKE off the husks, and put them  
in water a little while.

TAKE the kernels off the cob.

THIS bare cob is your puppet's  
body.

TIE the husks in place with  
a piece of string  
a rubberband  
a heavy thread  
or a ribbon.

CAN you think of things to use for  
eyes  
nose  
mouth  
hair?

CORN kernels stuck in the cob with  
pins will make a good face.  
Husks or corn silk will make  
good hair.

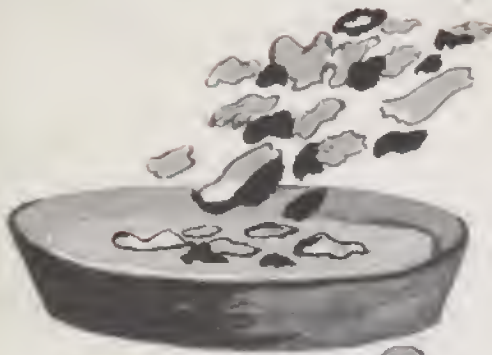
TURN Carol Corn into an Indian  
with chicken feathers.

YOU can move your puppet by  
holding the cob under the  
dress.





# TALKING



**TEAR** a sheet of newspaper into little pieces, and drop pieces into a pan of water to soak.

**CUT** cardboard 3 or 4 inches long and 3 inches wide.

**ROLL** and tie it on index finger.

**CRUMPLE** a newspaper ball and tie with string.

**POKE** a little hole in the ball for your tube.

**SMOOTH** paste (see p. 41) over the ball.

**COVER** the ball with bits of soaked paper. Add layers of paste and paper until ball is smooth.

**IS IT** to be a witch, a giant, a little girl or boy, an old man?

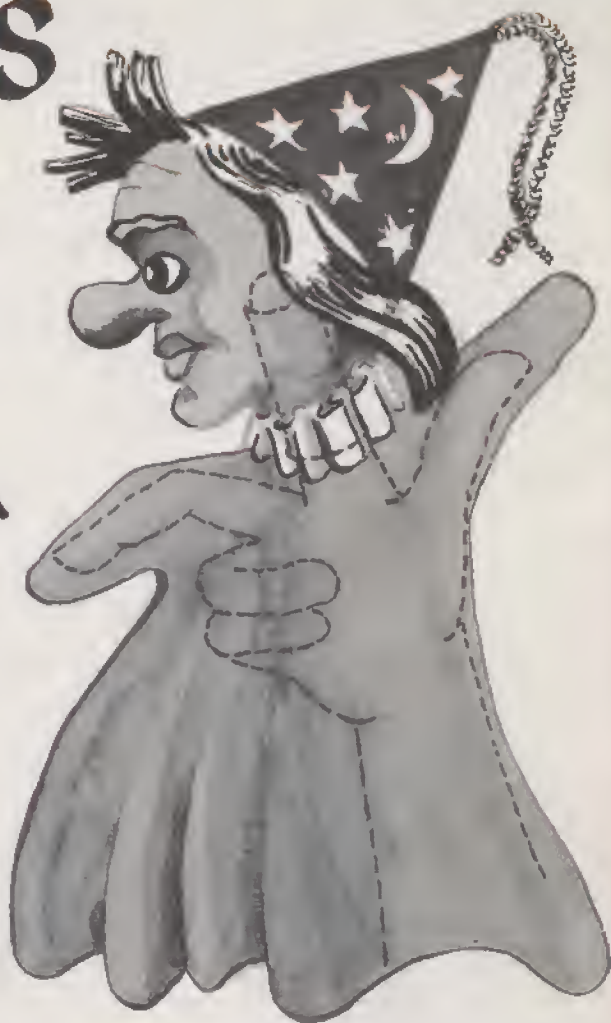
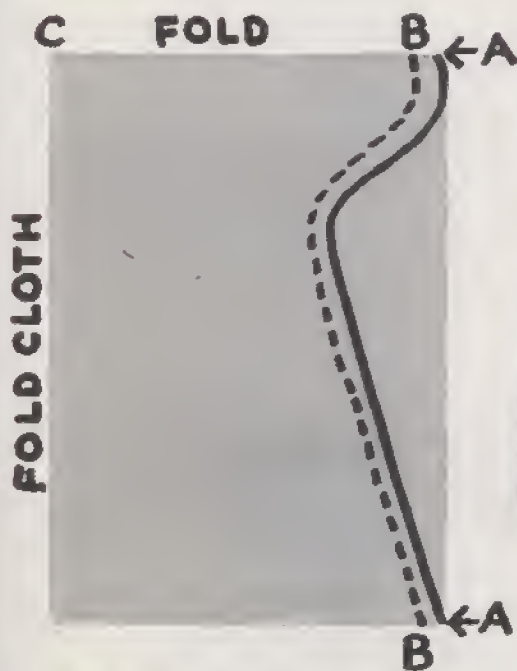
**ROLL** little balls of paper, one for the nose, two for the eyes, one for the chin.

**PLACE** the balls to fit the character of your puppet. Hold each ball, one at a time, on the face. Fasten balls carefully with paste and pieces of soaked paper over and around them.



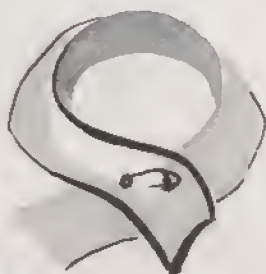
# FINGERS

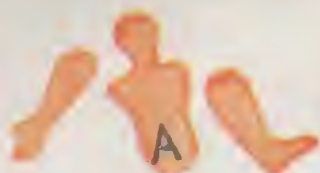
Cut out the dress while the head is drying. Cut from A to A. Sew from B to B on the wrong side. Cut a small slit at the neck (C).



GOOD PUPPETS have exaggerated features.

Let the puppet's face dry. Then paint it so the features show up. Slip the cardboard tube into the neck of the dress. Tie or sew in place. Finish the neck with a ruffle, scarf, or collar. Use cotton, yarn, felt, strips of paper, or paint for hair.





# CARDBOARD

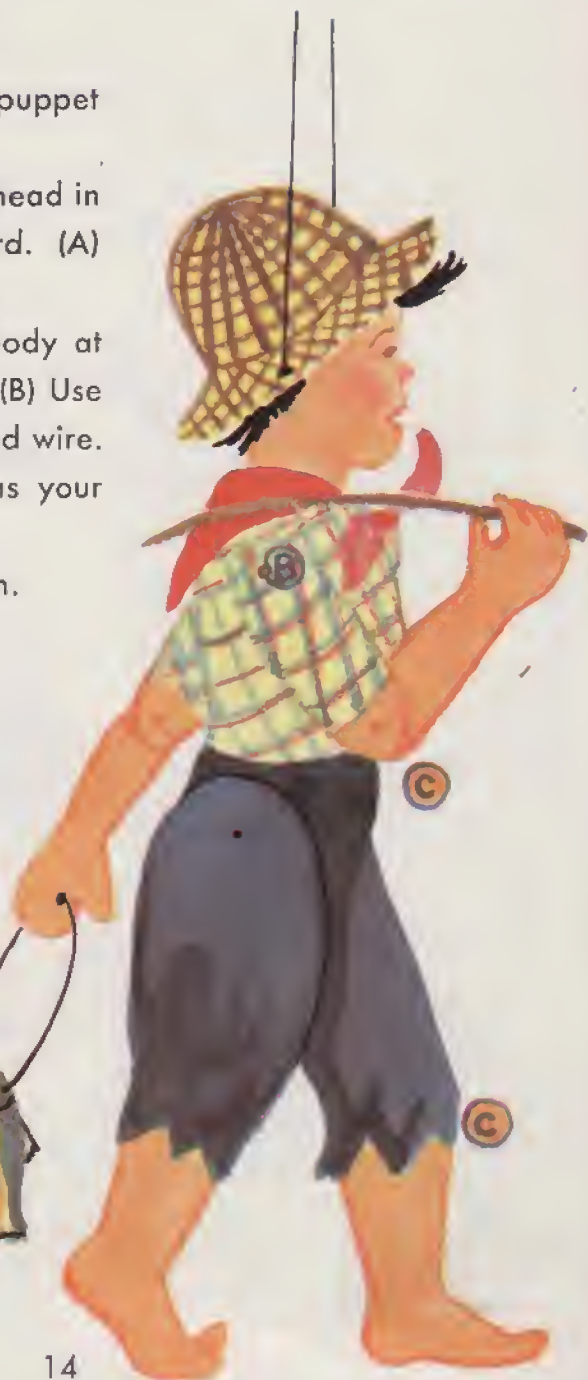
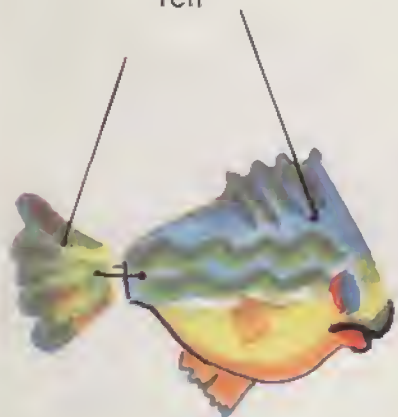
WIRE or string moves this puppet from above.

DRAW and cut the body and head in one piece of cardboard. (A) Draw the arms and legs.

ATTACH arms and legs to body at the shoulders and hips. (B) Use paper fasteners or looped wire. MAKE your puppet as big as your doll. Paint it.

DRESS your puppet if you wish.

USE crepe paper  
tissue paper  
cloth  
hair ribbons  
buttons  
beads  
feathers  
string  
felt





# STRING PUPPETS

ADD one or two joints if you want your puppet to be a better actor. (C)

REMEMBER the head and neck of a horse, goat, deer, sheep, camel are carried higher than the body. The neck of a cow is even with her back. Some birds have hardly any neck.

REMEMBER that the elephant's trunk is thicker near his head.

ADD a curled paper mane, a string tail, a hat, or a saddle to your puppet.



WIRE or string should come to your hips when you hold your puppet on the floor. Wire is easier for boys and girls to handle than string.

# PAPER AND STRINGS

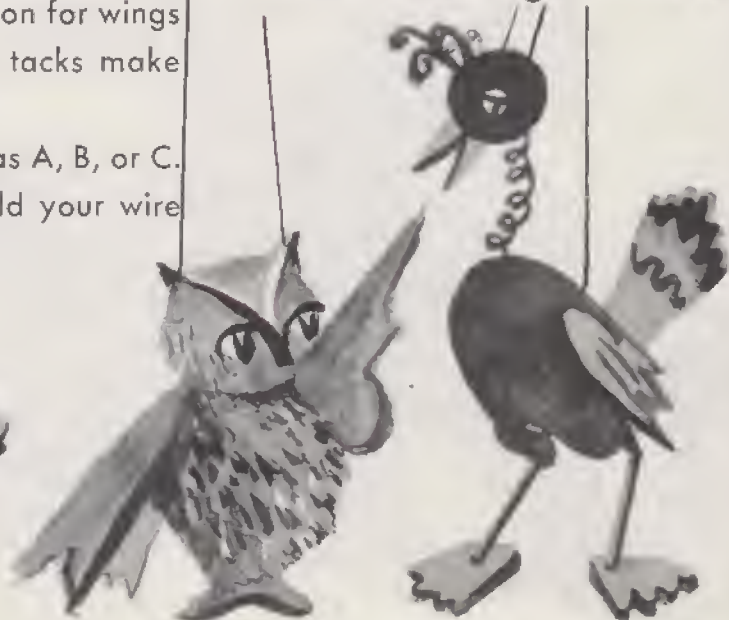
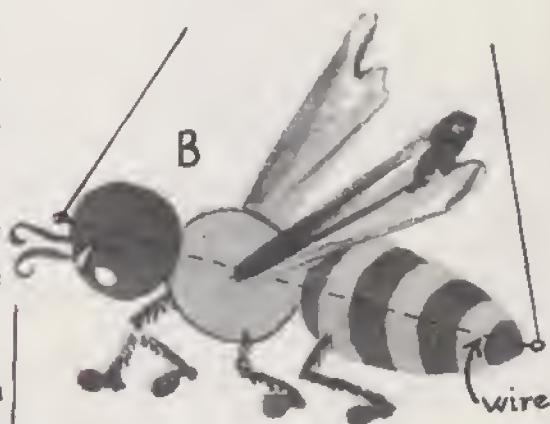


PAPIER MACHE is excellent for modelling these puppets. See recipe on page 41.

BEEES and butterflies need to be larger than they are in real life. Six or eight inches long is a good size. PAINT your puppets when they are dry. They are not real. Make them colorful, unusual.

CELLOPHANE or colored paper can be glued or tacked on for wings or tails. (A) Thumb tacks make pretty shiny eyes.

WIRES can be attached as A, B, or C. Screw eyes will hold your wire controls nicely.





# DO THINGS

GIVE a play when you have made some puppets. Dramatize a story that you know or make up a new one.



PAPIER MACHE body  
wooden legs  
paper wings  
button eyes

# RAG



CUT



SEW WEIGHT



STUFF small rags into the toe of an old sock to about the size of your fist. Tie with string.

STUFF more rags into the sock for the body. Tie again. Cut.

MAKE two legs with pieces of sock you have left. Sew, turn, and stuff each leg. Just before you tie the open end add a stone, marble, or nut to weight your puppet's legs.

SEW the closed ends of the legs to the body.

# CREATIONS

CUT two pieces of cloth 4 inches wide and long enough to reach from the puppet's shoulder to his knee.

FOLD lengthwise for arms. Sew, turn and stuff. Insert weight and tie for hands.

SEW to the shoulder.

CHOOSE crayons, paints, or colored thread to make the face. Snowman, clown, little boy or girl? Make it interesting!



PLACE A  
WEIGHT  
INSIDE  
EACH  
HAND

Is your puppet happy, sad, surprised, or angry?



# STRINGING ALONG

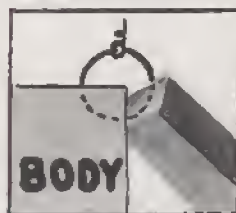


SPONGEX is sponge rubber used to make bath sponges, brushes, kneeling pads, etc. Left-overs are excellent for making puppets.\* Rubber cement comes with Spongex scraps.

CUT Spongex scraps with scissors into the shapes you want. Scraps come in a variety of colors and can be sewed, wired, or cemented together to make jointed animals or puppet people.



## WIRE JOINT



**ARM**

- \*1. Universal Handicrafts Service, Inc., 1267 Avenue of the Americas, N. Y., N. Y.
- 2. Broadhead-Garret Supply House, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 3. Eau Claire Book and Supply Co., Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

# WITH RUBBER

CHARACTER and interest can be given to the puppet by using different colored scraps. One great advantage of this kind of puppet is that it doesn't have to be dressed.

SPONGEX puppets are light in weight and easy to manipulate, but to keep them on the floor the feet need to be weighted. See page 33.





# USE WOOD



## YOU NEED

wood scraps  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  inch cotton tape  
small screw eyes  
coping saw, jig saw  
needle and thread  
carpet tacks  
paste or glue  
scissors  
ruler, pliers



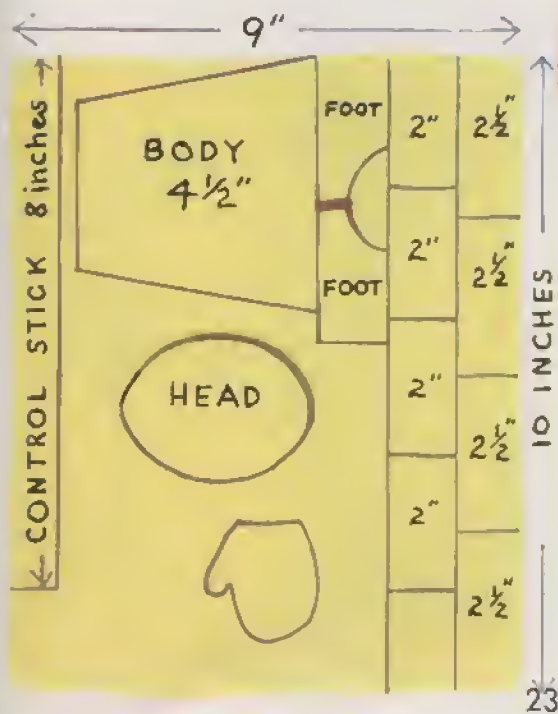
This is a puppet for older boys and girls to make, because it has four or five strings and many joints. Every puppet is as different as every person you know. Draw a picture of the kind of puppet you want to make.

# WOULD YOU?

DRAW your puppet actual size. A good size for a child puppet is 10 or 12 inches tall. A good size for a grown-up puppet is 15 or 18 inches tall.

FIND some wood, not more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch thick.

WITH pencil and ruler draw your puppet parts on the wood. Here is one arrangement.



Cut only one hand. Slice with jig saw to make two hands thinner than arms and legs.

# JOIN THE JOINTS

MAKE your puppet's head according to directions on pages 29-30.

ARRANGE body pieces on top of your drawing. Screw 13 screw eyes in place. (A) Open 13 other screw eyes (1) with two pairs of pliers. (Someone can help you.) Screw these at x. It takes 2 screw eyes for each joint. Put them together (2). Close them (3). Do not put head on until puppet is dressed.

TWILL tape or strip of cloth 1 1/2 inches long, tacked to wood, makes a good joint. Here are ideas.



# PAINT AND DRESS

**PAINT** your puppet's head, hands, and feet. If your puppet's head is made of wallpaper cleaner, paint only eyes, eyebrows, cheeks, and mouth.

**CLOTHES** for a puppet must be loose and roomy so it can move easily. Clothes should be colorful and in keeping with the character of your puppet. See pattern on page 32.



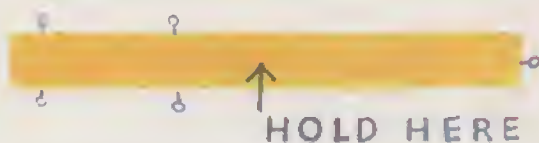
**HAIR** may be added now, if needed. Paper, yarn, cotton, or cloth can be glued on. Pins or tacks can be pushed into wallpaper cleaner to hold the wig in place.

**NOW** you are ready to join the head and body. Bend screw eyes with pliers.



# STRING YOUR PUPPET

TAKE the 8-inch control stick you sawed when you made all your wooden pieces for your puppet. Screw 5 screw eyes into it like this :



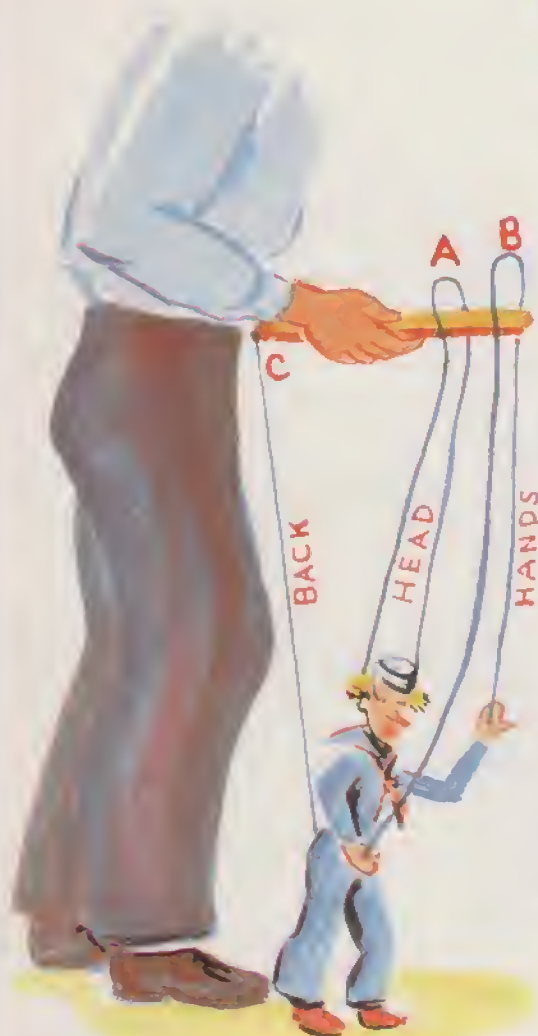
CUT 3 lengths of heavy, dark cord, or fish line, or light weight wire, about two yards long.

SCREW a screw eye at the back of each hand of your puppet, and one at the back of the waistline under the clothing.

THREAD one string through the screw eyes (A). Attach to head. Hold the puppet with his feet on the floor. The control stick should be even with your hips.

THREAD one string through screw eyes (B). Have string long enough to allow arms to hang at sides naturally.

THREAD one string (C) through screw eye at puppet's back.





# MOVE YOUR PUPPET

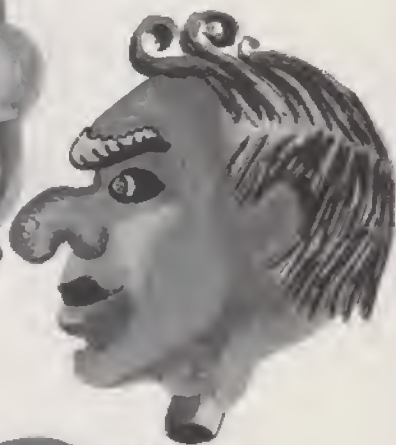
SLIGHT motions of your wrist and hand can make your puppet bow, nod, and shake its head.

WHEN you know the many things your puppet can do while you have only one hand on your control stick, you are ready to pick up the string (B) between the screw eyes with your other hand and move your puppet's hands. Have a good time!



# USE YOUR HEAD

GOOD puppet heads have exaggerated features. It helps the audience to tell the character.



1. **SOCK HEAD:** Stuff the toe of a sock with rags or cotton. Tie. Use yarn, crayons or paints for features.

2. **NEWSPAPER BALL HEAD:** (see p. 12).

3. **BALL HEAD:** Find a ball the size of a puppet head. Make a hole big enough for your index finger. Paint a face. Drape a piece of cloth over your hand. Put it into the ball with your finger. Your puppet is dressed.



# AND MAKE ONE



4. **SAWDUST HEAD:** Mix 2 cups of sawdust, 1 cup plaster of Paris,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup wallpaper paste, 2 cups of water. This makes three puppet heads. Model your heads. You can use shiny buttons or marbles for eyes. You can add wire earrings, paper hats, yarn or paper hair while mixture is soft.

5. **PAPIER MACHE HEAD:** Tear 4 double sheets of newspaper into bits. Cover with boiling water. Knead well. Squeeze off water. Add 1 cup of paste (see p. 41). Makes 2 heads.

6. **PLASTIC WOOD HEAD:** Buy a can of plastic wood at the hardware store. Model it into the character you want.

7. **WALLPAPER CLEANER HEAD:** (for Hand Puppet). Take a handful and model it into your favorite character. Insert a cardboard tube to fit your finger. Now you have a hand-puppet head. Let it dry two or three days. Paint.



# MAKE ANOTHER



**WALLPAPER CLEANER HEAD:** (For String Puppet.) Take the oval piece of wood you sawed (p. 23) for your puppet head. Put screw eyes where ears should be. These are for head strings. A screw eye at the bottom of the head is later attached to puppet's body.

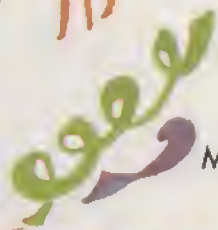
Model the face and the back of the head with wallpaper cleaner. Shape deep eye sockets even with the screw eyes. Make the nose, cheeks, chin, and eyebrows stick out.

You can press buttons or marbles in the eye sockets for eyes. Yarn, paper, string, or rags can be stuck in for hair before cleaner dries.

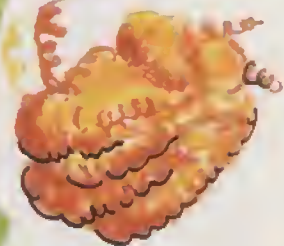
Let head dry for two or three days. Then paint mouth and cheeks.



# TOP KNOTS



A



MAKE A WIG from these materials  
to suit your puppet.

RAGS

TOE OF SOCK slit along edges  
(A)

CHORE BOY

COLORED PAPER, curled or  
straight

YARN

STRING, braided or straight

ROPE, twine, cord

CORN SILK

LEATHER SCRAPS

FELT (B)

COTTON

RAFFIA

WOOD SHAVINGS

PAINT

ALUMINUM FOIL

CELLOPHANE STRIPS

ARTIFICIAL HAIR (from 10c  
store)

# SCISSORS AND SEAMS

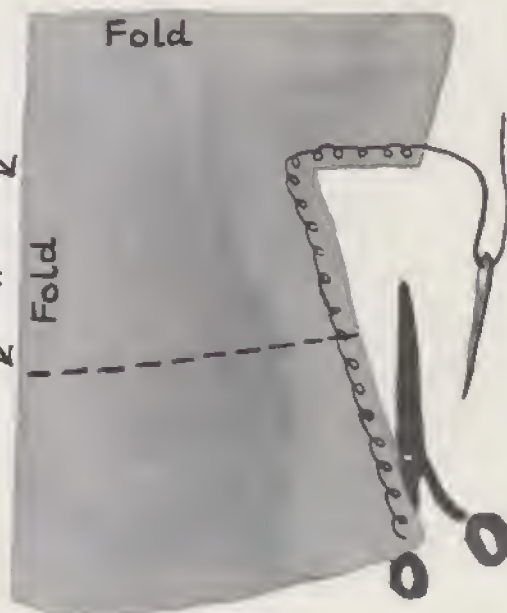
## PUPPET DRESS (cut two)

Cut here and up  
the front for jacket

DRESS



JACKET



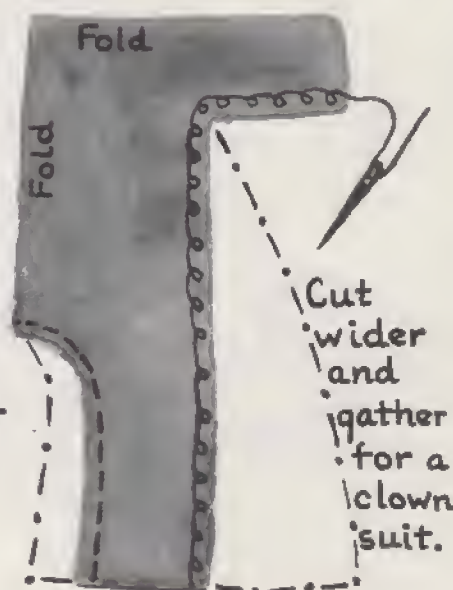
## TROUSERS (cut two) ONE PIECE SUIT (cut two)



Fold



Sew A -  
then sew 2  
parts together  
at B.



Cut  
wider  
and  
gather  
for a  
clown  
suit.

# HANDS TO MOVE

**HANDS** on a puppet should be as long as its face.

**PUPPETEER'S** fingers fit into cardboard tubes or spaces in the hands.

**SUGGESTIONS** for puppet hands.

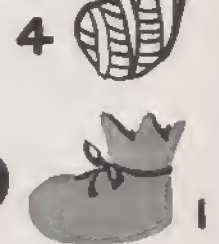
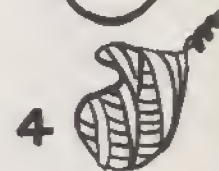
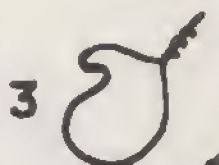
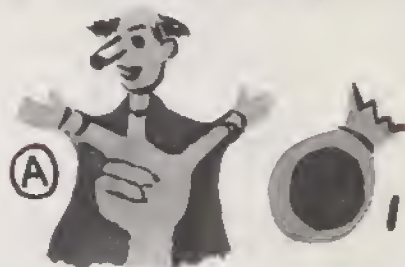
**GATHER** a piece of cloth around a marble or weight and tie at puppet's wrist (1).

**CUT** cardboard or felt into a mitten shape. Sew or glue to puppet's arm or dress (2).

Wooden hands are put on with screw eyes.

**BEND** wire and wrap with adhesive tape. Paint. (3)

**BEND** wire as before. Pad with cotton. Wrap with rags. (4)

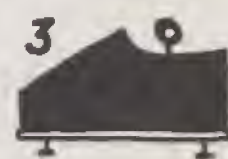
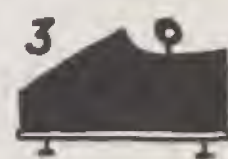
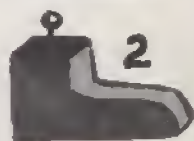


# FEET TO STEP

**GATHER** a piece of cloth, leather, or felt. Stuff, weight, and tie. (1)

**SAW** a foot from wood scraps. (2)

**PAPIER MACHE**, plastic wood, or wallpaper cleaner can be modeled into feet. Weight the feet to keep them on the floor. Tin can be bent around the foot, or a weight can be flattened and tacked to the bottom. (3)





# THEATER



## DOOR THEATER for hand puppets

Pin a piece of cloth across an open door, high enough to cover you. Play your puppets above the cloth to the audience on the other side.

## DOOR THEATER for string puppets

Place a chair in the doorway with the back toward the audience. Put a folded card table against the back of the chair for the back of the stage. Hang a cloth on the door frame on the audience side to cover door opening except two feet from the floor. Kneel on the chair and work your puppets from above. Make them walk on the floor.



## PORCH THEATER for hand puppets

Throw a cloth or carpet over a porch rail. Duck behind it, and play your puppets just above the railing to the audience on the lawn.





# TRICKS

## ORANGE CRATE THEATER

### For Hand Puppets

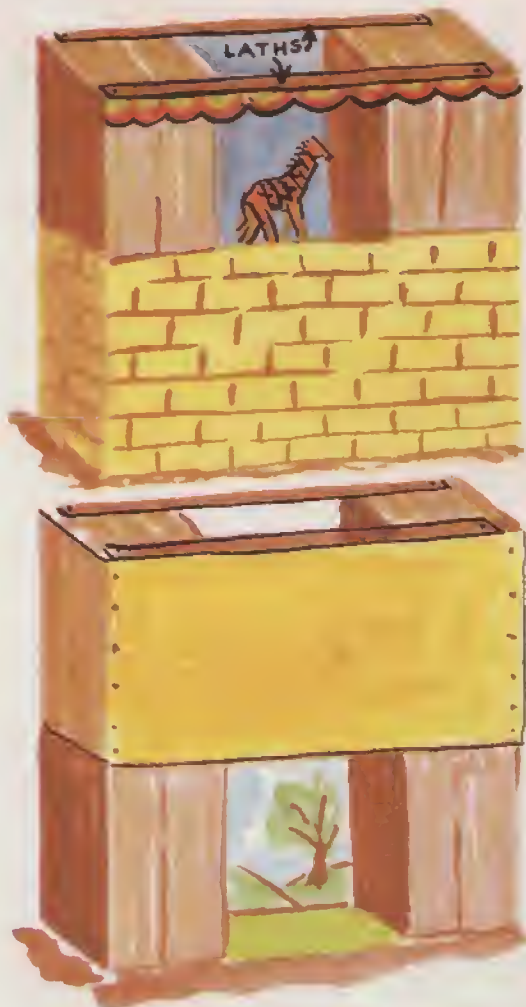
You need 4 orange crates, about 6 yards of wrapping paper, scissors, thumb tacks, hammer; nails, crayons or paints.

Place 2 orange crates end on end. Nail together. Place the other two end on end. Nail together. Place these double crates far enough apart to have the stage opening between.

Tack wrapping paper around the front of your theater. Paint or color a piece for scenery behind.

For a String Puppet Theater: Cover top half of theater in front with wrapping paper. Use bottom half for scenery and stage.

A hedge or low bush is a ready-made stage for hand puppets.



# AND MORE

## THEATERS for hand puppets

Throw a blanket over a fence. Stand or kneel behind the fence and show your puppets over the top.

Open a window a little higher than your puppet is tall. Pop your puppets over the sill and make them talk to the people.

Stretch a rope or clothesline from one tree to another. Throw a blanket over it. Stand behind the blanket and play your puppets over the top.

## THEATER for string puppets

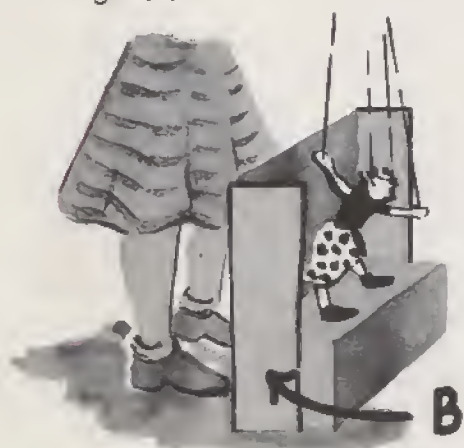
An overhead garage door can be moved up just high enough to show a box. Use the box for your puppet stage. Take out top and front of box. The garage door and the box will hide you as you work your puppets.



# TRICKS

## SCREEN THEATER for String Puppets

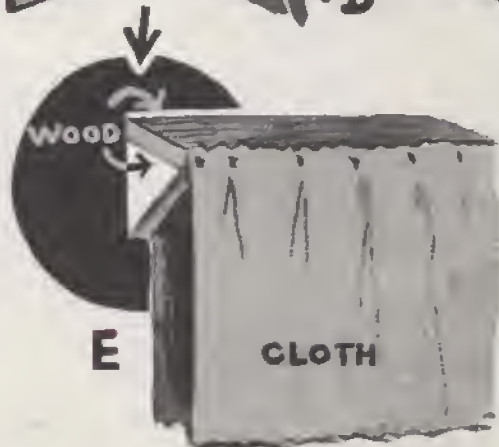
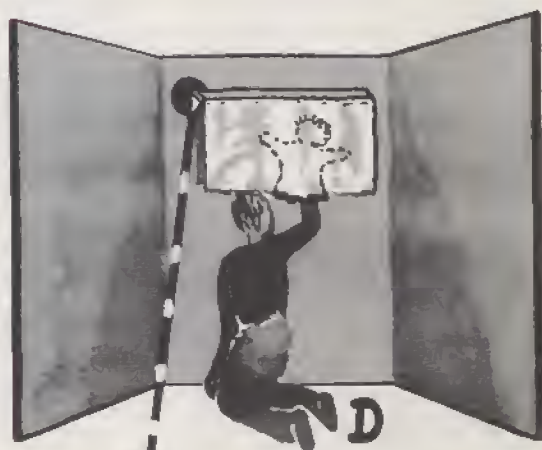
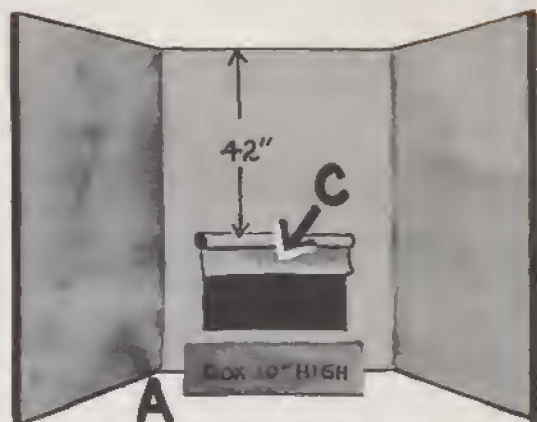
Hinge together 3 pieces of wall board (or heavy cardboard) 6 feet by 3 feet. Cut an opening 24 inches wide and 20 inches high, 10 inches from the floor. Use a box for stage floor. (A) Tack cardboard to box to hide legs. (B)



A window shade makes a good curtain. (C)

## For Hand Puppets

Turn screen upside down and kneel behind it. (D) Nail a piece of wood across top of opening for scenery. (E)





# ACTIONS ARE THE ATTRACTIONS



HEAD and arms of a puppet must be more active than those of a real actor. These exaggerated actions make up for the limited movements of the puppet.

EACH puppet must be manipulated by a different person. The person who speaks the part manipulates the puppet. Try to suit the actions to the words.

THE AUDIENCE will know which puppet is supposed to be talking if only that one moves. The other puppets must stand still and move when it is their turn.

OF COURSE you will want to give a play. You may want to use a play that is already written. Books of puppet plays are available at the library.

You may know a story you can play. Best of all, you can create your own play.



# GOOD SPEECH SPELLS SUCCESS

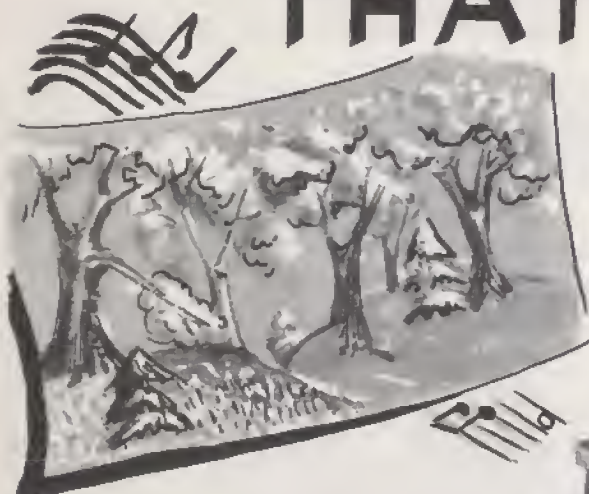
**BE SURE** to speak clearly. You will be behind a curtain. It will be difficult to hear you.

**USE** a big enough voice. Pronounce your words correctly. Make your puppet sound like the character it is.

**EMPHASIZE** the word that makes the meaning clear. Put meaning into what you say. That is expression.

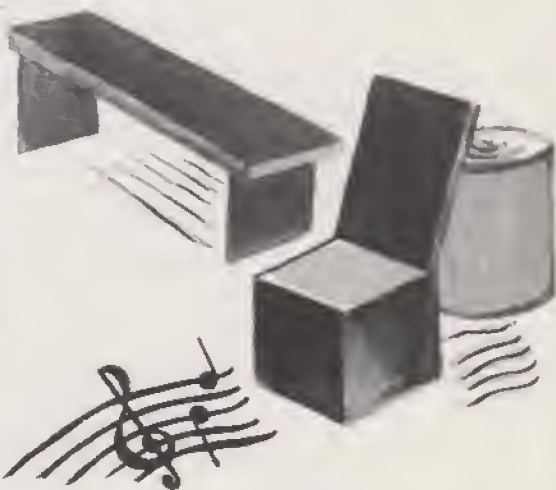


# LITTLE THINGS THAT COUNT



**MAKE SCENERY** fit the mood of the play. Make it out of paper, muslin, net. Color it so the puppets show up in front of it. Decorate it with paints, crayons, cut-outs.

**MAKE SIMPLE PROPERTIES** in proportion to the puppets. Make them out of cardboard, clay, paper, wood, tin cans. Some simple properties are: a bench, a chair, a toadstool, a bed.



**USE MUSIC** to fit the mood of the play. Use it before the play and between scenes. Use records, a piano, or other instruments.

# MIX AND FIX



## BOILED FLOUR PASTE

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup flour

Stir in 1 cup of water, slowly.

Bring to boil over low heat.

Stir until thick and shiny.

## SAWDUST MIX

2 cups sawdust

1 cup plaster of Paris

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup wallpaper paste

2 cups of water



## PAPIER MACHE

Crumble 4 double sheets of newspaper.

Pour hot water over it.

Let it soak over night. Knead.

You can rub on washboard to knead.

Add the above paste. Mix well.

